

M M

URD°RING MINISTERS

Vol. II No. 13

November 2, 1979

STUFF

MURD°RING MINISTERS is a gamezine dedicated to the play of postal DIPLOMACY, a game owned by the Avalon Hill Game Co., and other multi-player postal wargames. Sub rate is 12/\$4.00, gamefee for Regular DIP \$3.00; see GAME OPENINGS section for further information. MM is published by Ron Brown, 1528 El Sereno Pl., Bakersfield, CA 93304. Phone - (805) 834-8409.

With this issue, MM begins its second year of publication and there's no end in sight! Now for the good news. But seriously folks . . . oh, sorry about that. For a moment I thought I was Konrad Paunseister. If you don't get Konrad's EGGNOG then please pretend you didn't read the above because unless you do, you won't understand what it means. Now that I think about it, I'm not sure I do either. Forgive me, I must have gone to the Bahamas for just a moment there. Speaking of EGGNOG, Konrad has what must be one of the highest circulations in the hobby: 1254. Keep up the good work!

In the last issue I named several new zines that were just getting their start. One of these, VERRATSPIEL, has already folded after publication of just one issue. This in all likelihood means that a record of some sort has been set. It seems that the exatublio publisher found out he only figured he'd be allowed free access to his office /erox machine. So goodbye VERRATSPIEL.

Speaking of new zines, two more have appeared. VOD: FOR DM, published by Bruce Linney, 71 Hudson Terrace R Apts., Manhattan, NY 10050 and EMHAIN MAGAZ, by Michael Mills, 3457 Makyes Rd., Hudson, NY 12520. VOD is available @ 12/\$4.50, \$3.00 gamefee plus a \$3.00 non-refundable deposit. Bruce has a fine first issue printed photo-offset of excellent quality and I'm sure that Bruce's enthusiasm for the hobby will result in an excellent product. Openings in regular DIPLOMACY, Diplomacy, and a month. EM is available @ 12/\$4.30, \$2.00 gamefee, and a \$3.00 non-refundable deposit, and will also be published monthly. It is also available. If it's agreeable to one of you, we have a trade offer.

To those of you who have requested a copy of the strategy articles: I haven't forgotten about them and I haven't even lost your stamps. I just honestly haven't had the time to type it up yet so please hang on and I'll get them to you as soon as possible. My free time (that is, the time I have to devote to the work on NM) will be drastically increased in two more weeks when football season ends. So this "akinyi" issue will hopefully be the last such until next September.

For those of you who send orders via certified mail: I will no longer accept such. It is just too much hassle to drive clear downtown to the main post office and wait in line 20 minutes to pick up your orders. Please send them through the normal mail channels or phone them in in the future. Thanks.

A little advice for those of you trying to get interested in smoking cigarettes: Sit in a chair and let your head hang down between your knees until it hits the floor. Rub back and forth along the rug until static electricity builds. Discharge it by touching a metal object. Repeat ten times or until the urge to smoke hits you.

Anyone interested in bungee jumpers?

* * *

MURDERING MINISTERS (MUR) OPENINGS


RESCUE - 6 people - \$3.00, preference list accepted. With the new DM games reaching their appearance this month, there will probably be no new stories until a current game concludes. There are signed up.

SUBMARINE - 3 people have signed up for this 6 man scenario which will begin at the start of ~~1980~~ 1980. Only \$2.00 to command a submarine wolf pack or escort group. Sign up now!

VARIANTS - If the SUBMARINE game doesn't get enough people signed up for it to be a reality, then I would be interested in running a DM variant. If you have a favorite you'd like to play in in these pages, send in your suggestion.

Q: What did Lady Marbeth say when she saw a dog order the castle
servants?

A: "Out, / I said, out, I say!"



1979AI WINTER 1902 BUILDS AND RETREATS

Austria: 0 Italy: A ROM
England: F EDI Russia: A WAR
France: A PAR Turkey: F Bla-1-ANK
Germany: 0

1979AI SPRING 1903 AUSTRIANS SLIP BEHIND ITALIAN LINES AS WAR RAGES!

Austria (Garrett): A Tys-PIE; A Tri-TYA; A BUL-s-Russian F Bla-Con;
F Gre-ION.
England (Masters): F Edi-NTH; F DEN-s-F Edi-Nth; A Swe-NWY; F Iri-MID;
F ENG-s-F Iri-Mid.
France (Sparling): A Par-BRE; F Bre-PIC; A Bel-RUH; A BUR-s-A Bel-Ruh;
A Por-SPA.
Germany (Kussynski): F Nwy-STP(ne); A Ruh-KIE; A MUN-s-A Ruh-Kie.
Italy (Mooney): F Ion-AEG; A Ven-TRI; A VIE-s-A Ven-Tri; A F ADR-
s-A Ven-Tri; A Rom-VEN.
Russia (Arnett): A MOS-Sev; F RUM-Bla; F Bla-CON; A War-GAL; A Bud-SER;
A Ber-SIL; F Bal-BER.
Turkey (Smyth): A ARM-Sev; F ANK-Bla; F Cen-s-F Ank-Bla/d/-r-Smy,OTB.

Fall 1903 due 11/30/79

1979AI Press-

MOSCOWIAN PRESS: Tsar Nikolai II has reaffirmed the fact that war
exists with the Turkish devils!
MOSCOWIAN PRESS: Tsar Nikolai II has declared war on the Austrian Micah's!
MOSCOWIAN PRESS: Tsar Nikolai II has repeatedly confirmed that war
exists between Germany and Russia!
BUDAPEST TIMES: Nikolai is getting to be as crazy as "Crazy Victor."
He only is at war with half the world. Your time will come!

1979CF FALL 1902 AUSTRIAN EMPEROR MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARS! CALL IS OUT FOR
SUCCESSOR TO THE THRONE!

Austria (America): NMR!* has A GAL; A BUD; A VIE; A SER; F GRE.
England (Sherwood): A YOR-Nwy; F NTH-s-A Yor-Nwy; F BAR-s-A Yor-Nwy;
F BAR-s-A Yor-Nwy; F ENG-Bel.
France (Rodriguez): A PAR-Bur; A GAS-s-A Par-Bur; A SPA-H; F MID-s-A Spa.
Germany (Linsey): A BUR-Par; A PIC-s-A Bur-Par; A Ruh-BEL; F HOL-s-
A Ruh-Bel; A DEN-s-Turkish F Spa(ne)-Sil/imp/.
Italy (Hefti): F LYO-Spa(ss); A MAR-s-F Lyo-Spa(sc); A Tun-ALB;
F ION-s-A Tun-Alb; F Tys-WES.
Russia (Kerzhnec): A NWY-H; F SWK-s-A Nwy; A WAR-Gal; A RUM-H; F BLA-s-A Rum;
A SEV-s-A Rum.
Turkey (Tucker): A BUL-H; F CON-H; A ARM-ANK; F AEG-Gre.

Winter Builds 1902 AND Spring 1903 orders due 11/30/79

*Would D.S.Palter, Box 156, Cedarhurst, NJ 11516 please take over the Austrian
position?

1902 Supply Center Chart

Austria - Home, Ser, Gre	(5)	0
England - Home, Yor	(3)	-1
France - Par, Bre, Spa, Per	(4)	0
Germany - Home, Hol, Den, BEL	(6)	+1
Italy - Home, Mar, Tun	(5)	0
Russia - Home, Rum, Swe, NWY	(7)	+1
Turkey - Home, Bul	(4)	0

1979CF Press-

GER-RUS: Boy, this is fun.
ROME-CONSTANTINOPLE: I'm watching you very closely!

different. Well, then don't negotiate! It's your ass, sweetie pie!
WINEST: A curious site was reported today, King Thomas the Last and King Joan-Alfred swimming with a peculiar stroke. It seems that both had thumb and forefinger clasping their noses while the other hand would shoot up in the air. The free hand would first shoot up with one finger exposed, then two fingers, then when last seen both held three fingers aloft. Neither has yet to come ashore. Speculation is that both are attempting to break the world record for staying underwater.

GER-ENG: I hope you did as you said.

CONSTANTINOPLE TO THE WORLD: The new imperialistic government of Turkey wishes to extend an invitation to open diplomatic channels to any country wishing to do so.

ROME-BERLIN: I felt this was best!

GER-WORLD: The Voice of Doom has sounded for Mr. Rodriguez!

ROME-WORLD: No correspondence is bad correspondence!

*

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MH-6 ~~WINEST~~ **SPRING 1902** **BELGIUM STILL UNCLAIMED AS AUSTRIAN EMPEROR AEDICATES THRONE!**
 Austria (Muech)*: All units held; has A VIE; F TRI; A SER; F GRE; A BUD.
 England (Haskins): A Nwy-FIN; F Nug-BAR; F WOI-NWG; F NTH-Hol.
 France (Lee): A Bur-RUH; A Pax-BUR; F Bie-PIC; A Spa-GAS; F Per-MID.
 Germany (Baxker): A Ruh-MUN; A KIE-s-A Ruh-Mun; F Bar-BAL; F HOL-Nth.
 Italy (Williams): A TYA-Vie; A VEN-Tri; F Nap-APU; F Tun-ION.
 Russia (Hachuel): A Rum-CAL; A WAR-s-A Rum-CAL; F Bla-RUM; A SEV-s-F Bla-Rum; F StP(ne)-Nwy; F SWE-s-F StP(ne)-Nwy.
 Turkey (Schelling): A BUL-s-Austrian A Bud-Rum/NSO/; F CON-s-A Bul; F Smy-AEG; A ANK-s-F Con.

Fall 1903 orders are due 11/30/79.

*David Muech is being transferred overseas and must drop all games he's playing in. Would Gary Carson, 1924 Channel Dr., Ventura, CA 93003 please take over the Austrian position?

MH-6 Press-

BERLIN: The German government has decided to assist the government of Denmark in fighting off "unwarranted British aggression." The German government will do everything in its power to insure that "British aggression" be repulsed and eventually, done away with.

ROME: A L APOPE! The college of cardinals, after much negotiation and the unprecedented tar and feathering of the Austrian cardinal, have selected Ron (Vito) Brownetti to be the latest successor to St. Peter. His first words as Pope were: "Get Austria." The Italian crowd at the Vatican has just stopped cheering.

The First ~~WINEST~~ **WINEST** **MINISTERS** Orphan Game: **ATC#6** (formerly) Now to be Known as **WINEST** (until a DM arrives). The Cast:

John S. Lang	William Shelton, Jr.	Eric Howard
3023 Midwood	7 Bayside Drive	PO Box 9623
Houston, TX 77025	Madison, WI 53704	Burns Park, Ca 90620

Bob Canady	Mike Hartman	Thom Burnett
1939 W. Broadway	15515 Sunset #207	101 Baynes
Melrose Park, Ill 60160	Pacific Palisades, Ca 90270	Buffalo, NY 14213

John Masters
 25711 W. Victoria Dr.
 Valhalla, CA 91055

The 1903 yearbook will be shown on the next page along with a brief overview regarding getting this thing going again.

Austria (Laing): owns BUD, VIE, SER, GRE: has A BUD; A VIE; A SER; F GRE.
 England (Carmody): " Home, NWY: has F LPL; F LON; F NWG; A NWY.
 France (Hartman): " Home, BEL, POR: has F BRE; F MAR; F WAL; A BEL; A POR.
 Germany (Masters): " Home, DEN, HOL: has F KIE; F DEN; A MUN; A BOH; A HOL.
 Italy (Shelton): " Home, TRI: has F ION; A TYA; A TRI; F VEN.
 Russia (Burnett): " Home: has A WAR; A SEV; A FIN; F BOT.
 Turkey (Howard): " Home, BUL, RUM: has F BLA; A RUM; A BUL; F CON; A SMY.

Spring 1902 orders due 11/30/79.

((There was some discrepancy concerning the Russian build for W'01. I spoke with Thom on the phone and he says he did submit the build of A WAR to former GM Craig Reges but then never heard from him again. I plan to accept his statement and pick up the game from there. If no one objects, please have your Spring orders in as per above.))

1979G WINTER 1903 BUILDS AND REMOVALS

Austria: 0 Italy: F NAP
 England: F LPL, F EDI Russia: F STP(ne), F SEV
 France: GM removes F ENG Turkey: 0
 Germany: 0

1979G SPRING 1904 ENGLISH FLEET SUNK IN DENMARK AS GERMANS SAIL INTO PORT!*

Austria (Haffey): A Vie-TYA; F GRE-Ion.
 England (Grabar): F Edi-NWG; F Lpl-NAO; F Lon-ENG; F POR-Spa(ss);
F Den-s-A Swe/d/-r-Ska,OTB; A Swe-s-F Den/a/; F NTH-s-
F Den.
 France (CD): A SPA; F BRE.
 Germany (Burspas): A Hol-RUH; A Bel-PIC; A Bur-PAR; A Mar-GAS; F Bal-DEN;
 A KIE-s-F Bal-Den; F HEL-Nth.
 Italy (Hashnel): A Tya-TRI; A Tri-SER; F NAP-Ion; F ALB-s-F Nap-Ion;
 F Ion-EAS.
 Russia (Kuszynski): F StP(ne)-NWY; F Bot-SWE; A FIN-s-F Bot-Swe; F SEV-Bla;
 A Ser-RUM; A UKR-s-A Ser-Rum; A BUD-s-Italian A Tya-Tri.
 Turkey (Michalski): A BUL-s-Italian A Tri-Ser; F ARG-s-Austrian F Gre-Ion;
 F Bla-ARM; F CON-Bla.

Fall 1904 due 11/30/79.

Well, maybe not sunk but made to retreat a bit!

1979G Press-

LEHAVRE: 1st Hessian Army reports Frenchmen are as rare as hen's teeth!
 CONSTANTINOPLE ST.PETE: Et tu, Brutski?
 BORDEAUX: 2nd Bavarian Army reports some might be found in Brest.
 MARSEILLES: 1st Bavarian Army reports more Frenchmen are in Spain than in France.
 ANKARSAW: What ever happened to all that Polish Power in the east?
 KIEL: 3rd Bavarian Army is of the opinion some Frenchmen are masquerading as Englishmen visiting Kobenhavn.

ABOARD THE TURKISH FLAGSHIP ARMED BEN CASEY IN THE AEGEAN: Sultan Ram Al Ueahn dismayed over reports of the Serbian calamity. "I thought Czar Kissassky knew that yellow Peril meant Mongolians, not luckless tourists from Poznan." Reports say the Russians made a dastardly attack on the Turkish rear while the troops were bowed down for prayers, although other reports say they were crushed down hunting mushrooms.

"The fault, dear Bruns, is not in our stars,
 But in our minds."

...and I'm a guy about to
 ...

1979AN WINTER 1902 BUILDS, REMOVALS, & RECENTS

Austria: A TRI, A BUD Italy: F Ion-r-APU
 England: F EDI Russia: GN removes A Fin, F Bot
 France: removes A FOR Turkey: O
 Germany: F KIE, A BER

1979AN SPRING 1903 ARMIES OF FIVE NATIONS CONVERGE AROUND WARSAW AS POLES SAY PRAYERS:

Austria (Carson): A Tri-SER; A BUD-s-A Tri-Sor; F GRE-H; A Cen-ANK;
 A Bul-CON; A Rum-BUL; A Cal-WAR.
 England (Haffey): F EDI-Nth; F Eng-BRE; A LIV-Mar; A StP-PIN; F Bar-NWY.
 France (Palter): F LYO-Spa(sc); A GAS-s-F Lyc-Spa(sc); A PAR-s-English
 F Eng-Bre.
 Germany (Sulsberger): A Ber-PRU; A Hun-SIL; A Ruh-BUR; A Bxe-Par/d/-r-Pic, OTB;
 F HOL-Nth; F Swe-SKA; A Den-SWE; F Kie-HEL.
 Italy (Smyth): A MAR-Spa; F WES-s-A Mar-Spa; A PIE-Mar; F TYS-Nap;
 F APU-Nap.
 Russia (CD): A UKR.
 Turkey (Mastern): A MOS-s-Austrian A Cal-War; A SEV-s-A Mes; A Ser-ALB;
 F Ion-ADR; F Eas-ION.

Fall 1903 due 11/30/79.

1979AN Press-

CONSTANTINOPEL: Shortly following the review of the victorious army in the Turkish Theater, His Majesty expressed his disdain for Middle-Eastern food. Knowing that the Emperor is quite fond of Polish sausages, the General Staff agreed to see what they could do.

BORDEAUX: The refugee French government pulled into this sleepy provincial city today after seeing Paris to the Hun. French diplomats had agreed to this with the Turks and are honoring their agreement. It is hoped that England will arrive to claim Spain and Portugal, or at least to seal the Western Med before the Italian advance. Failing that, better a good foe in Berlin than a bad liar in Rome.

ANKARA: The first reports of the great exodus of all Turkish peoples from their homeland are first reaching the outside world. The entire homeland is being vacated to make room for the Austrian invader. One large contingency of the population is heading north through Russia. These peoples hope to eventually settle in Germany where they will be a general nuisance and a great drain on the German welfare system. A second large group is heading westward for a future home in Italy. There is one smaller group, last seen in Serbia and headed for Alliance, which is composed of followers of Rev. Jim Jones, that allegedly stocked up on grape Koal Aid boxes leaving Rumania.

1978II FALL 1905 (SUMMER RETREATS: Italian Toga(re)-s-OTB, A Mar-r-PIS) GERMAN KAISER LOSES ORDERS - STILL MAKES GAINS AS ITALIANS CHOOSE NEW RULER!

Austria (Shatto): A TYA-Ven; A TRI-s-A Tri-Ton; A GAL-S-French A Sil-War/NSO/;
 A Ser-GRE.
 England (Minkulski): F Nwy-STP(ne); A LIV-s-Russian A Rec; F Ion-NTH;
 F Bre-MID;; F ENG-s-F Br; Mid; F Spa(sc)-LYO; F Mid-SPA(sc).
 France (Struckme): A SIL-Mun.
 Germany (Pill): NMR has A BER, A MUN, A PAR, A HAN, A MAR, F BAL.
 Italy (J.E.H.): A VEN-Tya; A PIE-s-A Ven-Tya; A ROM-Ton; F TUN-Ion;
 F TYR-s-F Tun-Ion; F GRA-Ton; A C/(-r-A) OTB.

(can't next page)

Russia (Mueth)***: A WAR-H; A MOS-H.
 Turkey (Rodriguez): A BUL-s-Austrian A Ser-Gre; F EAS-Ion; F AEG-s-F Eas-Ion;
 A SEV-Mos; F RUN-San Diego/H/.

Winter 1905 and Spring 1906 due 11/30/79.

*Would Dave Grabar, Ave 18½, Chowchilla, CA 93610 please send in standby orders for Germany?

**John Kelley, Box 35, Klickitat, WA 98628 has taken over the Italian position.

***David Mueth must drop (see MM-6 for explanation). Would anyone who is interested take over this position by sending in orders for Spring '06? If no one is interested in this not very promising position, Russia will be in CD next year.

((Why don't a few more of you guys drop out of this one and maybe we can set a new record for most standbys in one game!))

1905 Supply Center Chart

Austria - Home, Ser, GRE.....	(5)	+1
England - Home, Bel, Nwy, StP, Bre, SPA.....	(8)	+1
France - War	(0)	OUT
Germany - Home, Dan, Hel, Swe, PAR, MAR.....	(8)	+2
Italy - Home, Tun, Per, Mar, Gre, Ser	(5)	-1 unless F Gre-r-OTB, then even
Russia - War, Mos.....	(2)	0
Turkey - Home, Bul, Rum, Sev.....	(6)	0

1978II Press-

CONSTANTINOPLE: The Rajah of the Foreign Board, Afghani Rhod-Rigz, was urgently dispatched to Salina. The Turkish 1st Fleet is currently anchored in that ordinarily quiet Black Sea port. Rhod-Rigz was sent to squelch mutinous hash smoking sailors who attempted to sail to A San Diego for liberty.

VIENNA-GERMANY: Write something!

SUB-1 Turn 6

Convoys:

C2	C2	C2
D12	L12	T12
B5	B5	B5

Escoorts:

Starling	Sterk	Easton
B11	Y13	J15
C4	B1	B6

Terps:

C13	T17	C31
C2	B4	B4

C3	C3	C3
D19	L19	T19
B5	B5	B5

German U-Boat has Emergency Power Factors.
 Turn 7 due 11/30/79.

KINGMAKER KM-1 TURN 4

I have not received the results as of this time (Tuesday, 11/6/79) + must get this issue in the mail. As Rick will be reading this too, I will ask that he mail the results to the players

(can't wait pg)

HR-1 Don't

himself, as soon as possible. Meanwhile, I'll continue to try and reach him by phone. Please note that Fred Bolin has changed his name to Phrogus and would like all correspondence to be addressed as such.

Sorry,
Ron

* * *
WM-8 NEW GAME BEGINS! EUROPE REARMS! WINTER '82 1900

Donise Tucker, Rt. 1 Box 705E, Eureka, MO 63025 -

Darrell Staley, 1618 Milvia St. #3, Berkeley, CA 94709 -

James R. Williams, 2500 6th St. SW, Altamont, IA 50009 -

Joel R. Blank, 16261 Centry Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 -

N David Barker, 2050 Gillilan, Placentia, CA 92670 -

Harry L. Coughlan, 4614 Martha Cole Lane, Memphis, TN 38118 -

Dan Kuszynski, 3405 Westchester, Bakersfield, CA 93309 -

Spring 1901 due 11/30/79 unless extension is requested by a majority.

AUSTRIA
ENGLAND
FRANCE
GERMANY
ITALY
RUSSIA
TURKEY

* * *
READERS' RHETORICAL REPLIES

David Barker:

Thanks so much for publishing my letter. I will appreciate any and all advice on getting this convention going. I'm really excited about it and a lot of people here at Cal State Fullerton are, too. Due to some scheduling conflicts mid-February or early March looks better than late January. It would be great to get to meet in person all the Californian DIPLOMATS enthusiasts that I've been corresponding with. Oh yeah . . .

((I'm sure we all want to know the final date as soon as it's set, David.

I'm sorry to say that no one has responded as of this time to tell us how they'd prefer to see a DIP-Con run. Maybe we'll get some input from someone for next time.))

BRUCE Linse:

Wow! That HR #12 was a nice issue. I will, however, join the others who say that if you need to put out a small issue to keep the games going smoothly -- do so! The games come first -- I'm sure all of your players appreciate this.

I have two points to make, both concerning your newsletters. HR #12

(Cont'd pg.11)

NOTE: The following report is from the *DAILY SUNDIAL* of California State University Northridge. Since this report contains information that is vital to the health and well-being of all Diplomacy players, I am passing it along for your benefit.

John H. Masters
Valencia, California

RARE NEW PHOBIA DISCOVERED

Northridge, November 1979: The entire world of mental health was rocked back on its heels and forced to sit up and take notice today by a report submitted to the *Gestalt Foundation for Psychiatric and Clinical Research on the Basic Neuro-Metabolo-Pshycho-Somatical Redunancies to the Stimuli-Recall Mechanism of the Psychotic, Neurotic, Paranoid or simply Nutty*.

The report, submitted by Dr. Lazarus Flurfy, professor of Abnormal Psychology at California State University Northridge, was entitled: A Report on the Neuro-Psychical Basis of RUSSOARMOGALICIOPHOBIA.

Russoarmogaliciophobia (or simply R-A-Gal-phobia) is defined by Dr. Flurfy as being an inordinate fear of Russian armies in Galicia. Dr. Flurfy, it's discoverer, claims that it is an extremely rare and somewhat trying condition of hypochondria brought on by playing Austria to excess in postal Diplomacy games. The affliction may take on any of several forms.

In an advanced state, known as Hyporussoarmogaliciophobia, the disease may assume new and interesting characteristics, such as a morbid fear, not only directed against Russian armies in Galicia, but of Russian armies (or fleets) anywhere. Another common manifestation is a deep-seated fear of any small, square, white object. The sight, or even thought, of a pair of dice is sufficient to send a hyporussoarmogaliciophobiac into hysteria, or a sulk, depending upon his kinesthetic-neural makeup.

"I know of a most interesting case," writes Dr. Flurfy. "We shall call the patient Mr. Ex (because that is his name, Bill Ex). Up until the time about which I am writing, Ex was, barring his phobia, a perfectly normal human being. He had been blasted out of Austria, via a Russian attack in Galicia, in several postal Diplomacy games; but his phobia had not yet reached an extreme manifestation. He did not exhibit any perceptible fear of sugar cubes, Chicklets gum, books with white covers, typewriters with white keyboards, etc. Nor did fear Russian derived words or objects. Still he would refuse to eat chicken Kiev and would wince at pictures showing Marie Osmond smiling."

"For the first several months of my observations, Mr. Ex seemed to be able to cope with his phobia. Then one day when he came into my office, I could see the hallmark of the hyporussoarmogaliciophobiac on his worried face. "It's getting worse," he said. I nodded and asked him why. He told me that after being set back by Russia in yet one more postal Diplomacy game that there had been changes made at his job (he worked in the production department of a foods company). He had been transferred to the department that made marshmallows. Immediate action was called for."

"I advised him to quit his job immediately. He should also accept positions in Diplomacy games if he would be playing France; he was never to play Austria again. The next step was to come into his home and make major changes. Everything white was painted some different color. Even the most minor things had to be taken care of. A piano had to be removed, because of its keyboard. Special ice-cube trays were brought in, that made round instead of square ice-cubes. His new telephone with it's white push-buttons was sent back for an older model, black with a dial. Note pads, white books, pillow cases, a black and white chess board, and even an ivory mahjongg set were all removed. From now on Mr. Ex would eat sandwiches made with pumpernickle bread only, and never with white bread or Russian rye."

"Things went very well for several months. Mr. Ex was a very sick man, but we had managed to control his environment. Of course there were still a few problems and set backs, such as the time Mr. Ex went into hysteria just as he was getting into the tub. He had suddenly envisioned the bath water as the Adriatic Sea and the bar of Ivory soap in it as a Russian fleet."

"Several months later, I received a phone call from Mrs. Ex asking me to come over right away. I found Mr. Ex in a state of semi-coma lying on the sofa and clutching some papers in his hand. Summoning all of the skill of the clinical psychologist I was able to bring him out of it. His eyes were open and he was aware of my presence. I reached into my pocket for some Nibs licorice bits. I offered several of the nibs to Mr. Ex. He looked at them and then jumped up in terror. In only an instance he had leaped through the window behind him. He fell to his death two-stories below."

"He had dropped the sheath of paper that he had been holding and it had fallen at my feet. I picked it up and looked at it. It was a Diplomacy zine called *MURD'RING MINISTERS*. I looked at the page he had been reading and saw that he had followed my advice and had started a game as France. The Spring 1901 adjucations had just been made. Germany had just moved army Munich to Burgundy."

This report caused quite a stir at the Gestalt Foundation and the board of directors voted Dr. Flurfy a further \$225,000 stipend to continue his studies of Russoarmogaliciophobia; with the hope that someday this dread disease may be cured.

((Many thanks to John for his excellent contribuion to MM. I'm sure that you enjoyed his article as much as I. Keep 'em coming, John!))



Why do I feel like the
Austrian is going to be
winning y... ..

says that deadlines will be strictly enforced, yet in issue #11 you say the opposite (i.e. that moves will be accepted a day late if you haven't typed them yet). I'm not saying whether it's right or wrong to do that, but if you do accept late moves you should change your NR's to say that. As I once told you (I think), I called for the moves, found out that "_____ " had NMR'd -- and due to that particular NR, felt free to mention that in my negotiations with another player. It then turned out there was no NMR at all because of your lenient policy.

I feel the need, before going on to the other point, to just reassure you that by no means am I putting down you or MM -- I think MM is right up there with the best, and you are pretty damn reliable compared to most GMs.

OK, point #2: In NR #8, you say that an NMR will inherit a standby player. This is good, but I feel you should immediately tell us the name and address of that player. When Seybaldt dropped in 1979CF, Denise Tucker made her moves before anyone could negotiate with her! The same will be true this issue if Amenta should drop. Therefore, would you please print the standby's name?

I certainly hope I haven't offended you, but these two things needed clarification, I feel . . .

((First of all, it takes a LOT more than that to offend me. A thin-skinned person has no place in this hobby, much less being a publisher where you are marketing a product which will not be possible to please everyone. But to the points of your letter now, and they are GOOD points that I'm glad you brought up. I don't feel bad regarding the deadline policy and I don't anticipate changing it. But it does require a bit of clarification. My printing schedule (as outlined in previous NR's is this: The deadline is always on a Friday, giving me the entire weekend to adjust the games and get everything typed up. Monday the copy is run off, they are addressed that night, and then mailed Tuesday morning. This schedule works well for me and I don't think it needs to be altered. Now from Sept-Nov., I have a serious commitment on my time and unfortunately I have been a day or two late the last couple of times. This issue will be mailed either W Tuesday or Wed, depending on whether I'm able to contact Rick Shatto in time. What I'm getting to is this: if I can get to it, the ditto masters for the games may be typed by Friday evening. If this is the case, I will not accept any that come in later than that. If I have not yet typed a particular game and a letter arrives in the Sat. morning mail, I'll go ahead and use it. Why not? If I publish it as an NMR it only harms the game that YOU have paid for. Now, please keep this in mind: this will only happen in those cases where there is no harm done by the late arrival of the orders. Now in the particular instance you're referring to Bruce, (and correct me if this is wrong) you called on the Sat. following the deadline and I had not yet adjusted the games. I could not find the player in question's orders at the split second you were on the phone. They had indeed been sent and arrived at the time of your call, but I said I read the orders I had. My apologies for the ambiguity I presented to you. I must be at fault there. But I really prefer for you to call Sunday evening or later if you want early results via the phone. OK? On Point #2: I stand corrected. Your suggestion is obviously the way it SHOULD be done and the way it WILL be done from now on. (See this issue.) Thanks for your letter Bruce. Constructive criticism in the manner you gave it is always welcome!))

WRAP UP

Damn! There's so much more I wished to get into this issue and here I am, out of room (and time!) again! Oh well, hope you like it as it is and I think that now that football will be over by the time the next issue is ready to come out I'll have the necessary time to get it ALL in next time. Coming up in the next MM will be more on the Triple Alliance, an interesting letter I received today from Bruce Shcllickbernd via John Michalski, the Games, and yes, that's right, MORE STUFF! So until then . . .

* * * * *

NOTES AND WORDS OF WISDOM:

Jerry -

*Still haven't heard from you re: 1978 AE.
I think two or three of us here in town will
be interested in The APBA baseball League.
Take care,
Ron*

MURD'RING MINISTERS
Ron Brown (can't type at all tonite)
1528 El Sereno Pl.
Bakersfield, CA 93304

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



<u>Contents</u>	
STUFF.....	P.1
MORE STUFF and GAME OPERATIONS.....	P.2
1979AI & 1979CF.....	P.3
MM-6 & MM-7 (APO#6).....	P.4
1979G.....	P.5
1979AN & 1978IX.....	P.6
SUB-1 & KM-1.....	P.7
MM-8 & RRR.....	P.8
RARE NEW PHOENIA DISCOVERIES.....	P.9
WRAP UP.....	P.12

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